

Birch Elementary is a Title 1 school with a diverse demographic located in Broomfield Colorado on the eastern edge of Boulder Valley Public Schools. As the teacher librarian in this rapidly evolving school, I collaborate with the many members of the community to help ensure the students have the best possible environment in which to learn.

In order to do this, I offer input on the goings on of the school and the district by participating in committee meetings. I attend (and often present at) [a monthly meeting with other librarians](#) where we share valuable ideas, and I am a part of my school leadership, technology, and climate teams. Within these forums, I apply best practices of teaching, including behavior and technology use. I am also a part of the [21st Century Cohort](#) that my district hosts as well as a part of the state-wide professional growth cohort. Participating in these things provides me with the opportunity for personal and professional growth as well as providing me with tools to help my colleagues grow as well. This includes members of my staff, and librarians within the district and state. I also have regularly presented at the yearly statewide conference InnEdCO. I have presented several different times on a number of topics, including [Digital Citizenship](#), [Engaging Students Using Google](#), and [Streamlining Educator Effectiveness](#). The latter presentation was done in collaboration with my principal and other teachers from Birch. I was also honored to receive the InnEdCO [“Making IT Happen”](#) award at the 2014 event.

Student growth has continued throughout the school academically and behaviorally, in spite of the fact that our poverty numbers are increasing. As a part of the leadership and overall planning team for the school, I participate in the discussions about high leverage strategies and work closely with the school data to identify gaps and needs for the whole school. I am taking an extra course centered on the Boys Town Well Managed Schools model, having discussions and task analyzing student behavior.

In the library, we focus on students demonstrating knowledge and growth in reading, writing, digital and basic library skills. For example I also collaborate with teachers on a regular basis. I often supplement work in the classroom with companion lessons in the library, and I am seen by the teachers at the school as a resource and aid in a variety of arenas.

Here is an example of a quick lesson that I put together to help students learn to recognize sources:

<p>Use the following links to match the fact to its source: (You will have to copy and paste the web address (URL)!) </p> <p>http://worldbookonline.com/kids/media?id=mp000017</p> <p>I call this source the:</p> <p>http://worldbookonline.com/kids/article?id=ar839208&st=swift</p> <p>I call this source the:</p> <p>http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2009/01/090130-immortal-jellyfish-swarm.html</p> <p>I call this source the:</p>	<p>Facts:</p> <p>When looking at the insert source name I see that Australia is surrounded by many seas, including the Tasman Sea, the Timore Sea, and the Arafura Sea</p> <p>This creature can actually age backwards and forwards! It is being called immortal for this reason. This is according to the insert source name</p> <p>She was born in December of 1989, and had her first big hit in 2006.</p>
<p>Your own interesting fact: (YOU MUST USE WORLDBOOK ONLINE TO FIND THIS)</p>	

In the past year I won a five thousand dollar grant for additional computers in the library, bringing the total number of machines up to 25. I continue to vigilantly add meaningful titles to the collection as well, for both teachers and students. We recently adopted the Lucy Calkins writing program in our school, and I was able to locate many of the referenced materials and procure them for the school and add them to the collection.

From Tracy Stegall, Principal:

Kim is a vital member of the Birch Core Team. As a natural leader, she brings adults together on a regular basis, focusing always on what's best for students. One of her greatest strengths is identifying her role in school-wide initiatives and figuring out how her work connects and fits into the puzzle. She is action oriented, highly ethical, and works tirelessly to build her program in the library. She works to empower all students in building 21st Century Skills; recently, I had the pleasure of seeing the efficacious practice of 6 year olds in logging into the computer and signing into Wixie. This is one example of many, many more.

Of important note is the strong volunteer base she creates, both in adults and former students. Our library comes alive each Wednesday morning when the local middle schools have to start later (allowing for teacher collaboration). Previous Birch Bulldogs stream into the library on these mornings, eager to help shelve books and work on projects with Kim.

Birch Elementary's programming is richer and more robust as a result of Kim's work.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tracy J. Stegall". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of each word being capitalized and prominent.

Tracy J. Stegall
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